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20231, on March 5, 2002



03-0002

36f3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Brad E. Hossler)
Serial No.: Continuation in part of)
09/993,386) Examiner: N/A
Attorney Docket No. 29947/93100)
Filing Date: February 13, 2002) Art Unit: 3613
Title: ROPE LOCKING DEVICE WITH)
AUTOMATIC SAFETY MECHANISM)

#9

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dear Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in regard to the above-captioned patent application filed on February 13, 2002. Please enter the following amendments before examination on the merits. A Marked-Up Version and Clean Copy of the Specification and FIGS. are enclosed.

In the Specification

On page 1, line 26, insert -- if the set is out of balance -- after "it"

On page 1, line 27, insert -- traditional -- after "However."

On page 3, after line 18, insert -- FIG. 7 shows a planar view of side plate 22. --

On page 3, after line 18, insert -- FIG. 8 shows a planar view of side plate 23. --

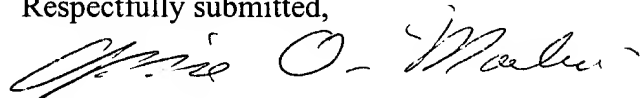
On page 6, line 13, insert after "23", -- FIGS. 7 and 8 show receptors 160 and 161 for 116 and 117 respectively in side plates 22 and 23, and receptacle 162. --

In the Figures

Please add FIG. 7 and FIG. 8.

No fees are believed due at this time, however, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to deposit account number 10-0435 with reference to our attorney docket number (29947/93100).

Respectfully submitted,



Alice O. Martin

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March 5, 2002

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